IN THE CLAIMS

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A system for processing signals, comprising:

a multiplexer, the multiplexer having a first interface to a plurality of broadband signal inputs and a second interface to a bus, the multiplexer multiplexing signals received at each of the broadband signal inputs onto the bus according to a frequency allocation scheme that associates each of the broadband signal inputs with an assigned frequency block;

a plurality of receivers in communication with the bus for receiving and decoding the multiplexed broadband signal inputs for communication with a data network; wherein each of the receivers is capable of tuning to a frequency corresponding to a frequency block of the frequency allocation scheme;

wherein at least one of the receivers is a backup receiver capable of being activated by an activation control signal that is generated upon detection of a fault condition; and

~~the system of claim 3,~~ wherein activation of a backup receiver comprises tuning the backup receiver to a frequency corresponding to a failed receiver.

5. (Previously presented) A system for processing signals, comprising:

a multiplexer, the multiplexer having a first interface to a plurality of broadband signal inputs and a second interface to a bus, the multiplexer multiplexing signals received at each of the broadband signal inputs onto the bus according to a frequency allocation scheme that associates each of the broadband signal inputs with an assigned frequency block;

a plurality of receivers in communication with the bus for receiving and decoding the multiplexed broadband signal inputs for communication with a data network; wherein each of the receivers is capable of tuning to a frequency corresponding to a frequency block of the frequency allocation scheme; ~~The system of claim 1,~~ wherein the broadband signal inputs comprise at least cable television modem signals.

6-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A method for processing signals, comprising:

a) multiplexing, a plurality of broadband signal inputs received via a first interface to a bus, the multiplexing being done according to a frequency allocation scheme that associates each of the broadband signal inputs with a frequency block; and

b) tuning at least one of a plurality of receivers that are coupled to and capable of receiving signals from the bus to a frequency that is included within one of the frequency blocks for communication with a data network ~~The method of claim 11~~, wherein the broadband signal inputs comprise at least cable television modem signals.

16-22. (Canceled)